

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary - Public

Date: 10/15/2009

GAIN Report Number: GM9039

Germany

Post: Berlin

German Farmers Launched an E-Postcard Activity pro Biotech

Report Categories:

Biotechnology

Approved By:

Bobby Richey, Jr.

Prepared By:

Dietmar Achilles

Report Highlights:

German Farmers Association (DBV) has started an email campaign to demand a change in the EU zero-tolerance approach regarding low level presence of EU unapproved biotech events. Also, the DBV is demanding an accelerated EU approval process for biotech products.

General Information:

The German Farmers Association (DBV) has launched an electronic postcard campaign directed to German Minister of Agriculture Ilse Aigner asking for her support in Brussels to modify the EU zero-tolerance rules regarding traces of EU unapproved biotech events. DBV placed an appeal text on the internet connecting it with a message box to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture.

Comment: In the past DBV took a very ambivalent position regarding biotechnology in crop production. DBV argues that it cannot recommend to its members to cultivate biotech seeds because its customers do not want it. With regard to EU approvals of biotech events solely for import and processing, DBV sees a different situation. The slow EU approval process puts livestock producers at risk and DBV has to support the interest of this group.

The site for the e-postcard can be found at <http://www.bauernverband.de/?redid=320376>

The appeal text says:

Dear Minister Aigner,

I am a livestock producer and therefore I am existentially depending on protein feeds such as soybean meal. The supply of protein feeds is extremely at risk if not immediately the zero-tolerance approach will be given up regarding unavoidable and accidental traces of biotech feeds not yet approved by the EU but already traded worldwide. A practical solution has to be found. This includes an acceleration of the EU approval process.

I strongly ask you, dear Minister, to support my appeal at the EU Minister Council. It is in your hands whether I can survive successfully in the market or whether I will have to give up because of exploding prices for protein feeds and resulting pork imports from Brazil.